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Field Guide: Making the Trek Through Campus

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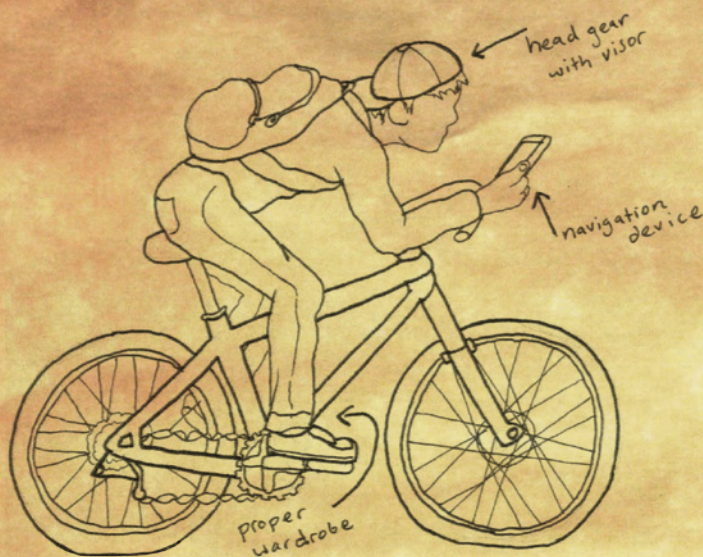
Field Guide:

Making the Trek Through Campus

Learn how to navigate those perilous 10 minutes with this helpful guide.

BY TRAER SCHON DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION EMERALD KLAUER

As college students, we're expected to make our way to class on time, alert and fully prepared, as if we're part of some sort of elite military squadron. Getting to class is no easy feat—we're forced out into the elements and given 10 minutes to navigate to our next class through a wooded landscape filled with people, somehow avoiding the multitude of hazards and dangers a college campus presents. Luckily we've put together this guide so you know what to look out for, be aware of and just flat-out avoid when walking to class.



Bikers

With all of the cycling enthusiasm of Lance Armstrong and none of the talent, the bikers of campus are an ever-present danger. Although many of them follow traffic laws (and normal social procedures) it's hard to distinguish them from those who don't. The bikers hurtle down the sidewalk as fast as their two-wheeled contraptions can take them, fearlessly trying to weave in and out of pedestrians with the coordination and precision you'd expect from a drunk sloth. They tend to flock to the highest-traffic sidewalks of campus, completely disregarding the open terrain surrounding them. If you were to fall, many would undoubtedly cycle right over your flailing body without even realizing what was happening. To avoid them, stay in open areas and keep a sharp tire-popping needle on hand, just in case.



Buses

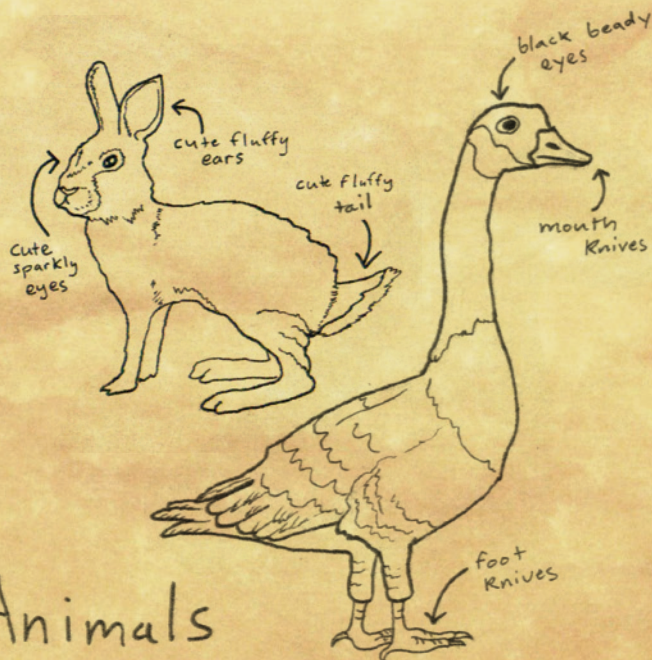
These giant beasts are everywhere, hauling students—and a few brave Ames residents—from stop to stop around the community. Some drivers will stop for pedestrians, but it's best to assume that this isn't the case, or a red and yellow CyRide bus could become your flamboyantly-colored hearse. The bright side: with all of the people they pack into the Orange 23 bus, you'll have around 3,000 witnesses to your bloody and gruesome death, so your family will be sure to get buckets of money.



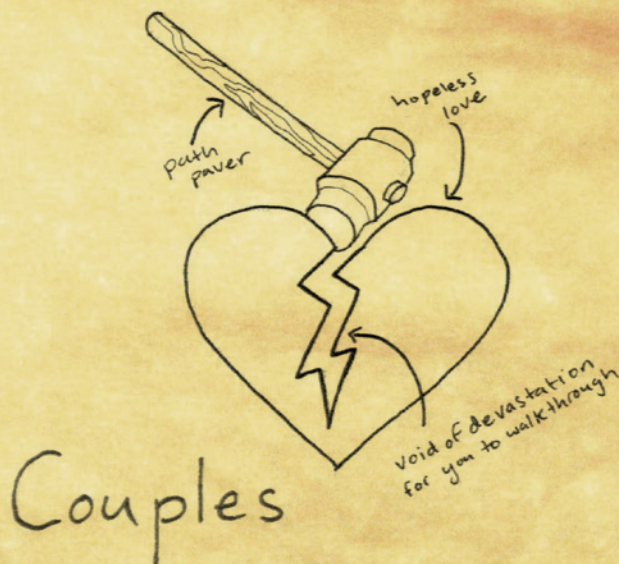
Cold

It's not much of a concern in the beginning or final months of school, but those few months in between are the ice cream in the middle of the ice cream sandwich that is the school year—in terms of temperature, not enjoyment. In the middle of winter, walking across the snowy, frozen tundra of Central Campus can be a harrowing and dangerous experience. With wind that chills your bones and temperatures cold enough to kill you from exposure—and then perfectly preserve your body—it's essential to bundle up. Cut through buildings, hug a stranger, befriend Katniss Everdeen—do whatever it takes to stay warm.

Animals



Animals fall into two categories: dangerous and distracting. Animals like geese fall into the dangerous category, because they are blood-thirsty monsters that will attack you and feast upon your soul if given the chance. The bunnies, ground squirrels and other similar animals fall into the distracting category, because you'll lose track of time watching these cute, furry woodland creatures scurry around campus. Before you know it, it's midnight, and you're the guy who just spent an entire day mesmerized by a bunny family hopping around eating grass. Don't be that guy—try to stay away from all animals on your way to class, whether they're cute or demonic. Unless, of course, you can lure them into a "Snow White"-type of situation where you can teach them to do your homework for you, in which case, definitely spend some quality time with them.

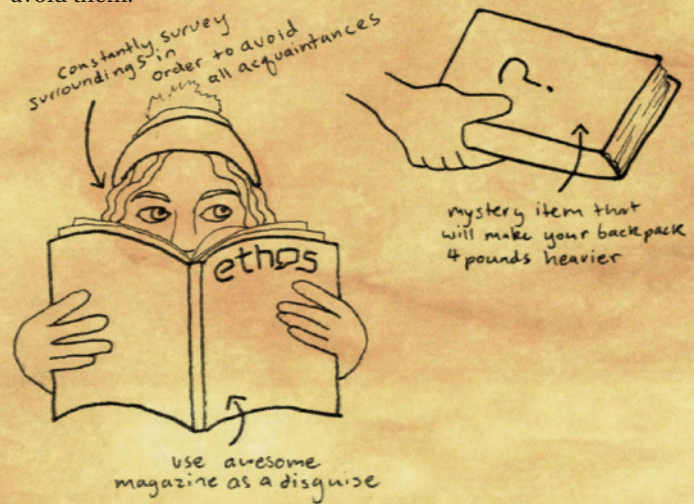


Couples

Love may be patient and kind, but it's also slow and annoying when walking on the sidewalk. On the walk to class, it's common to run into couples holding hands and walking at their own leisurely pace, which would be fine if not for the hordes of people trying to squeeze around them to make it to class on time. If you're not able to find your way around them, the only other solution is to infiltrate their lives and slowly start to break them apart—it doesn't produce immediate results and may be devastating for the couple involved, but it's for the good of the general public.

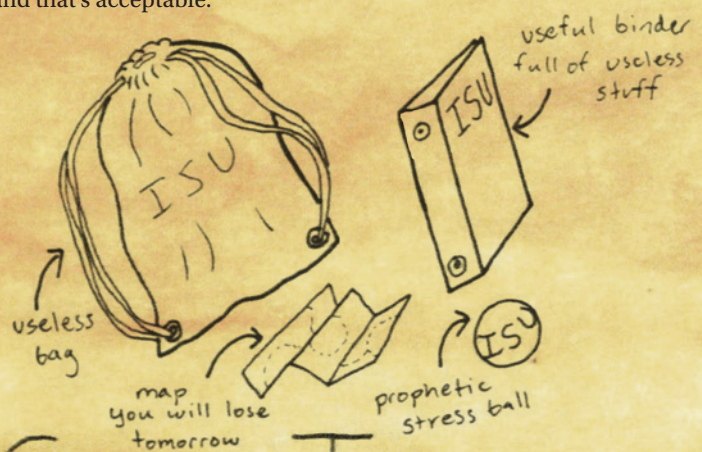
Crazy People

General rule: if they're yelling and/or handing things out, avoid them.



People You Know

Sometimes you just don't want to talk to or see anyone you know. In fact, you may be reading this now as a way of avoiding someone. That's okay. Do what you have to do to avoid interaction. It's 2014, and that's acceptable.



Campus Tours

Be careful not to accidentally run into a group of high schoolers touring campus. Before you know it, you'll have on a red drawstring bag stuffed with pro-Iowa State propaganda while being force-fed fun facts about campus artwork from an energetic guide in a red polo. Suddenly, your parents are there, making awkward small talk with said guide on the way to the dining center. On second thought, you could get a free meal out of this, so it may be worth it.

Campus is a large place full of mystery and danger. Becoming aware of the hazards listed on this guide will go a long way toward ensuring your safety on this Iowa State adventure you've chosen. If there's ever a day when you feel like these obstacles are just too much, you can always crawl back into bed and hide in the safety of your blanket fortress. @